

CONCLUSION

The marked-up versions of the claims submitted on April 4, 2003, Nov. 7, 2003 and resubmitted on May 1, 2004, were not correct. Examiner Allen provided a suggested marked-up version using brackets and underlines, which was the correct format when the April 4, 2003 amendment was filed. Undersigned counsel thanks the Examiner for a brief telephone conversation on April 23, 2004, in which she agreed that the present amendment should adopt the new mark-up format using strike-through lines. The present mark-up of claim 1 is based on the version of claim 1 that appears in the amendment filed May 29, 2001 (Amendment B) which the Examiner noted was the last proper one.

Remaining claims 2 – 6 and 9 – 11 are merely reproduced above in their current form, on the assumption that all previous amendments have been entered except for the objection to claim 1.

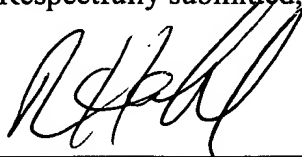
This application should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection set forth in the above-noted Communication, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3680. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicant believes there is no fee due in connection with this filing. However, to the extent required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Hahl, PH.D.
Registration No. 33,893
Gilberto M. Villacorta, PH.D.
Registration No. 34,038

Dated: August 23, 2004

Patent Administrator
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
525 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061